

I ask that you do not put your transmission line SOUTH of Route 160. My reasons are:

I-308-001

**HISTORICAL LOSS :** all of Huerfano county has precious history – you can't put your line anywhere where it does not destroy some historical treasure. But the treasures on our land, the ghost town off of route 443, is a visible treasure, consisting of existing buildings that have been restored over the last 8 years at our personal expense. Uptop, our ghost town, is currently under consideration of being named as one of Colorado's Endangered Historical Places. It is a recognized treasure, open to the public, even though it sits on private land. Our dream is to make it a permanent asset in Colorado's historical portfolio. The transmission lines would all but end that dream.

I-308-002

**PERSONAL FINANCIAL LOSS:** to fund the renovation of Uptop, we have been pursuing putting 250 acre of our 300 acres under a conservation easement with one house site on it. Your proposed southern path of the transmission line would virtually bisect the land designated for the easement. Coming up our most beautiful valley, the line would cut right through the proposed house site, making a conservation easement moot and gutting the value of our land. We, my sister and I, are not wealthy people. All of our wealth is tied up in this land. The loss of this land value would deliver a devastating financial blow to us and end our hopes of fully restoring Uptop.

I-308-003

**NATURE LOSS:** your southern most potential route cuts through one of the two southern- most stands of lodge pole pines – the pines that are being wiped out by a beetle from Canada to Colorado. The lodge pole forest on our land is the least affected in the United States and may evade this plague that has killed hundreds of thousands of acres of pines. Putting transmission lines through it would be like putting them through a national monument.

Thank you for your consideration,



Dianne Lathrop Law

### **I-308-001: Cultural, Historic, and Arch (In Review)**

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to and mitigation measures regarding cultural, historic, and archaeological resources from the proposed project will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

### **I-308-002: Environmental Consequences (In Review)**

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential environmental consequences and mitigation measures from the proposed project will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

### **I-308-003: Vegetation (In Review)**

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to vegetation from the proposed project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at

<http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

I-308-004

This is the CORRECTED map of the Dianne Lathrop Law/Deborah Lathrop Property on CR443 (also known as Old La Veta Pass) in Huerfano County, Colorado.

The corrected map should include:

- our correct property line (outlined in Red)
- the existing 9 residential and historic buildings currently in use (in bright Yellow)
- the 1877 Narrow Gauge RR Depot that is on the National Historical Registry (Red)
- Conservation Easement (we are working with Colorado Open Land Trust) (Blue lines)
- the single proposed building site on the Easement (this site was selected in 2007) (in Green)

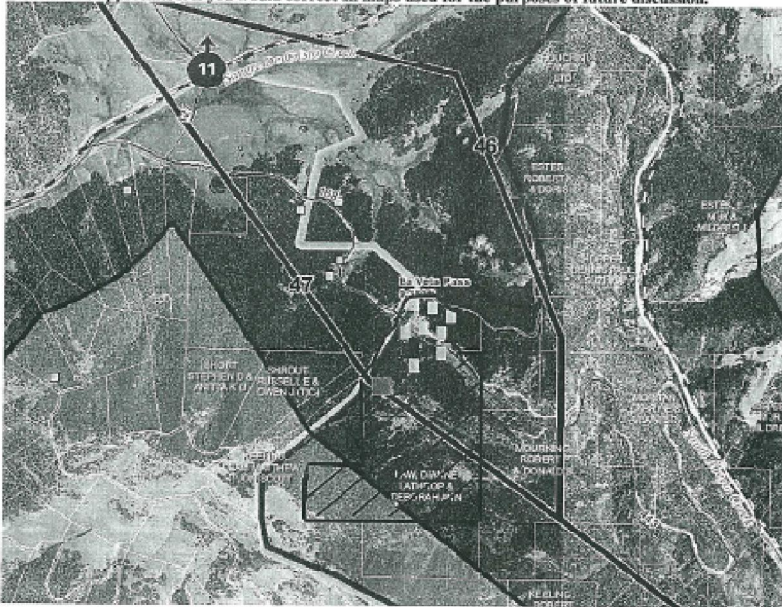
I-308-005

This property (approx. 300 acres) includes what is one of the only remaining 'ghost towns' in Southern Colorado. It dates back to 1877 and still has its original buildings, which have been restored and are in use today as an historical destination for the public. In addition, there are two residences and a proposed residential site.

The D&RG Narrow Gauge Railroad existed from 1877 to 1899 and was known internationally as the highest railroad in the world. The original 1877 Depot (in red) is not only on the National Historic Registry (#80000902), but is also currently open to the public as a Museum.

The history of this area extends beyond the railroad. After the D&RG Railroad changed to standard gauge and the tracks were removed and relocated, Hispanic homesteaders from the San Luis Valley came to settle this area. A logging industry was begun (ruins of the saw mill still exist). Later the railroad bed was paved and became State Highway 160 until 1964 (when the new Hwy 160 was built). Other buildings were built for the community, including the 1932 Chapel, the 1934 School House, and a early 1940's commercial Tavern and Dance Hall. All of these buildings still stand and have been preserved for future generations. This is a 'living history' area.

\* We would appreciate it if you would correct all maps used for the purposes of future discussion.



#### I-308-004: Correction to Data (In Review)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. The information you provided will be verified and project materials will be updated accordingly.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.

#### I-308-005: Cultural, Historic, and Arch (In Progress)

Your email/letter/comment form has been received and your comment noted. Potential impacts to and mitigation measures regarding cultural, historic, and archaeological resources from the proposed project will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Environmental Impact Statement is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 and will be available at <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm>.